

# **Montana Height Modernization Executive Committee Meeting Report**

December 07, 2007 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM at Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) headquarters, Helena, Montana. \*Phone-out conferencing provided by MDT.

## **Expected Participants**

\_\_\_\_\_\* Tony Bachman, USFS  
\_\_\_\_\_\* Dave Davis, MDT  
\_\_\_\_\_\* Todd Ferris, Inland GPS  
\_\_\_\_\_\* Stu Kirkpatrick, DOA  
\_\_\_\_\_\* Bryce Larsen, MDT  
\_\_\_\_\_\* Steve Niday, Missoula County  
\_\_\_\_\_\* Gerald Pavlick, Morrison Maierle, Inc.  
\_\_\_\_\_\* Curt Smith, NGS  
\_\_\_\_\_\* R.J. Zimmer, DJ&A

## **General Agenda**

1. Committee Direction and Strategy
  - A. Review, edit and develop MDT Executive Summary - attachments
  - B. Review, refine, discuss Ht. Mod. Components and MDT Business Plan - attachments
  - C. Discuss letters of support
  - D. Where do we go from here? - Everyone
2. Committee Reports – Status and Direction
  - A. Montana Height Modernization Program Plan – Zim
  - B. Montana Height Modernization Pilot Project – Todd
  - C. Montana Height Modernization Marketing Plan – Dick
  - D. MLIAC status/direction - Dave
  - E. MARLS Board of Directors status/direction - Dick
3. MDT Montana Height Modernization Web Site - Dave
4. Upcoming Events and Target Dates
5. Next Meeting

## **Reports**

- 1) Please review the MDT Web site for Montana Height Modernization for executive committee meeting minutes and other information at: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/heightmod.shtml>.
- 2) Stu Kirkpatrick reported details about the Federal grant <http://www.grants.gov/> process. The Grants.gov process provides a single source for agencies to allow applicants for federal Grants to apply for and ultimately manage grant funds online through a common web site, simplifying grants management and eliminating redundancies. The lead agency, MDT, registers with Grants.gov as a first step in the process. Register once on this site and your organization can apply for available grants from the 26 federal grant-making agencies. The registration process can take 3-5 business days. MDT is quite probably already a registered user of Grants.gov. The MDT designee to apply for a Height Modernization grant would then access and administer the specific Height Modernization grant and provide the required information requesting the grant.

## Montana Height Modernization Executive Committee Meeting Report

3) It was discussed that, currently, federal grant money for the Height Modernization Program is not sitting in a reserve waiting to be requested through the granting process. State effort and congressional support are encouraged to support the program. There are 50 states and several territories looking to promote Height Modernization activities in their state and all vying for very limited funds on a national scale.

4) Several documents were provided prior to the meeting to help focus development of a specific request for support from MDT. A modified Executive Summary which we renamed to a Request for Action was discussed and edited as our specific request of MDT identifying the need for an MDT employee to be assigned duties to investigate, develop, promote, and institutionalize a Height Modernization program for Montana. A deadline to begin this position was set at the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2008 with duration of 18 months to either succeed with the program, in which case this position should see support from the program as well as cooperative state agency input, or terminate these duties if unsuccessful. In addition, we are requesting MDT's support in working with Montana's congressional delegation to secure ongoing funding for Montana's Height Modernization Program. Bryce Larsen was putting the final edits together, will forward to the Committee for their information, and will introduce to Jim Walther for initial MDT response and possible clarification. The ultimate goal will be to present this request to the MDT Director's office by early January.

5) Letters of Support were mailed to the Director of MDT by Kalispell City Director of Public Works and Missoula County Board of County Commissioners since our last Committee meeting. Additional letters are in the works and the decision was made to incorporate all the letters in a single packet in addition to our proposal taken before the Director.

6) It was suggested a new acronym for the Montana Height Modernization Program, currently MTHMP, be addressed to improve its use in describing the program. The other level of consideration is the Montana Geospatial Reference Center, of which MTHMP is a part of. We are looking for suggestions.

7) Steve Niday reported on the current direction of the mark recovery program and discussed issues related to spending time to recover obsolete marks which would not be beneficial to the MTHMP. This program would be better suited if emphasis towards recovering marks focused on monument stability and quality, availability, and areas with missing or without control. This effort really needs to be reconsidered and coordinated – an excellent endeavor of the MTHMP coordinator.

### **Action Items**

**1. Request for Action** – Bryce will edit and finalize the Request for Action, send to Curt for review, submit as an FYI to the Committee, and present to Jim Walther, MDT, for initial critique and request for clarification.

**2. Letters of Support** – Several people are looking into other letters of support. We need these signed letters to include in the proposal packet to be presented to the MDT Director in early January.

USFS – Tony

BLM – Todd

# Montana Height Modernization Executive Committee Meeting Report

NRCS – Todd  
ACEC – Gerald  
MLIAC – Stu  
MARLS - Dick  
DNRC - ?  
Others?

**3. Update MTHMP Plan** – Original plan to develop proposal costs has several missing items such as leveling and gravity data collection. This updated document should be ready as part of the presentation to the MDT Director in early January. Please send comments, concerns, edits, etc., to R.J. Zimmer for compilation.

**4. Enlist Further Participation on Executive Committee** – Identify and encourage wider range of participation on the Executive Committee.

- 1) DNRC
  - A. Floodplain Manager
  - B. FEMA Contact
  - C. Department of Lands
- 2) Others?

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Montana Height Modernization Executive Committee will be determined by the direction requested by the Montana Department of Transportation. E-mail communication will continue in the preparation of documents and plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Smith  
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